



District 3 MISSION

FALL 2008

Featuring Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO



Jennifer V. Ramos
City Council District 3

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I sincerely hope all is well with you and your family in what can only be described as a truly exciting time to be a District 3 resident.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this second edition of the District 3 Mission Newsletter. In this edition you will find information on the City of San Antonio Public Works Department and frequently asked questions that deal directly with that department. In addition we will be focusing on three major projects and their progress in District 3 including the Rip Rap 69 project in the Harlandale area, the Goliad Road streets and drainage project and the Harlandale Park improvements project.

As I mentioned earlier, this is an exciting time to live in the Southern Sector. This edition of the District Mission will also take a close look at the economic development that continues to evolve in our neighborhoods.

It was announced that the Baptist Health System will be making a \$100 million dollar investment in a new facility at what is turning into the Southern Sector hub of business and development activity-Brooks City Base.

Just take a look at all of the banks building new branches in our community and you can see more of the continued growth and economic development I speak of. Frost, Sterling, Washington Mutual, Broadway, First National, Compass and IBC are all banks that have opened or will be opening branches in the District 3 area.

Let us not forget our latest neighborhood revitalization project - the new HEB Plus at the new McCreless Market opens. More shops, more restaurants and more development in the heart of the Southeast side of San Antonio will only make our community more vibrant.

Again-thank you for taking the time to read the District 3 Mission Newsletter. If you would like more information on City Services or if you need assistance from our office, please feel free to visit the website dedicated to our constituents, www.JennRamos.com or call our field office at (210) 534-1300.

Yours in Public Service,

Jennifer V. Ramos
City Councilwoman, District 3

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WWW.JENNRAMOS.COM



Your City Department Public Works

Each edition of Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos' Mission newsletter will feature a different City Department. This edition we will be featuring the Public Works department and its director Majed A. Al-Ghafry.

About the Department

Public Works consists of Disability Access Office, Pavement Engineering, Right of Way Management, Street Maintenance, Storm Water Engineering and Operations, and Traffic Engineering and Operations.

Public Works is also involved with the Infrastructure Management Program and Traffic Signal Synchronization Program. These programs are designed to utilize our staff's fullest potential to service the community. We strive to accomplish these tasks efficiently, effectively, and with accountability to the community we serve.

Currently, the 2008-2012 Infrastructure Management Program (IMP), a plan which is approved by City Council annually, provides guidance on the projects to be completed during the current and upcoming fiscal years. Please visit www.JennRamos.com for a full IMP listing.

Important Public Works Contact Information:	
Right of Way 207-6949	Street Maintenance 359-3110
Storm Water Operations 207-6580	Traffic Engineering 207-8058
Traffic Operations 207-7765	

Mr. Majed A. Al-Ghafry became the City of San Antonio Public Works Director in February 2008. Mr. Al-Ghafry comes to us from North Las Vegas, Nevada where he served as Director of Public Works.

As Director of Public Works for the City of North Las Vegas, Al-Ghafry was in charge of 286 employees and oversaw an annual operation budget of \$36 million and a 5 year Capital Improvement Program budget of \$1.2 billion. Al-Ghafry was responsible for the institution of a Public Sector Project Management Program and for initiating the reorganization of Engineering and Transportation Services to optimize operational and project delivery.

Al-Ghafry began his municipal career with the City of Chula Vista, California. At Chula Vista, Al-Ghafry worked his way up the Department of Public Works. Starting as a Junior to Assistant Civil Engineer, he moved up to Assistant Civil Engineer, and later becoming Civil Engineer - Traffic Engineering Section.

After several years with the City of Chula Vista, Al-Ghafry went on to become the Director of Public Works/City Engineer for the City of Lemon Grove, California. While at Lemon Grove, Al-Ghafry led the establishment of a long-term pavement management program in order to optimize pavement life while minimizing expenditures. Al-Ghafry also led the conversion of the sanitation maintenance operation services contract to in-house maintenance. In addition, he created a comprehensive long-range Capital Improvement Program for better utilization of future allocated funds.



About the Director
Majed A. Al-Ghafry

City Department Frequently Asked Questions Public Works

Each edition of Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos' Mission newsletter, we will be asking and providing answers for frequently asked questions concerning various city services. This edition we will be addressing different issues for the Public Works Department.



What is the easiest way to request speed humps for my street?

If you wish to request a speed hump study be performed on your street please call 311 or the District 3 Field Office at (210) 534-1300 to have a request form mailed to you. Once the form has been completed and returned to the City, staff will analyze the street to determine its eligibility status. If it is eligible, it will be considered, along with many others, for funding in the upcoming fiscal year.

Can I make a request to have speed humps removed from my block?

Speed humps may be removed at the request of 67 percent of the residents on the street. To obtain additional information you can call (210) 207-2075.

Does Public Works handle the Hike and Bike Trails throughout the City of San Antonio?

The City of San Antonio's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is indeed part of the Public Works Traffic Engineering Division and is dedicated to improving and enhancing bicycling and walking as a safe and viable transportation option. This is achieved through planning, engineering and policy development, as well as educating the community and agencies about bicycle transportation.

How can I check if my street is scheduled for repair or repavement?

San Antonio residents can check to see if their street is scheduled for maintenance by visiting the Public Works website at www.SanAntonio.gov/publicworks and clicking the Street Maintenance button at the top of the page. You can also obtain the information by calling the District 3 office at (210) 534-1300.

What do I do if I have water ponding in front of my address?

Please call 311 and request an investigation of your street. Be sure to leave your contact information and we'll get back in touch with you after our investigation is complete.

What is the purpose of the Disability Access Office?

The mission of the Disability Access Office (DAO) is to work towards a universally designed environment that makes it easy for all people, regardless of disability, to participate fully in community life. This mission echoes the spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

National Night Out Moves to October 7

This year National Night Out in San Antonio has moved to a new date. Normally held on the first Tuesday in August, the new date is Tuesday October 7.

National Night Out, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, is a neighborhood crime and drug prevention event that occurs annually and is celebrated in every city, town and village in the US. In addition to increasing awareness of crime and drug prevention programs, NNO also strengthens neighborhood spirit and community-police partnerships, while sending a message to criminals that "neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against crime!"



San Antonio has always had strong and enthusiastic support for and participation in National Night Out. Local National Night Out awards have been earned in 1998, 2003 and in 2006. In 2007, National Night Out in San Antonio had more than 450 communities and approximately 130,000 residents take part in the celebrations and block parties.

For more information or to register your neighborhood for NNO 2008, please visit www.JennRamos.com and follow the National Night Out link or contact our office and Gloria Dela Cruz can assist you with further details.

Development in the Southern Sector Never Better

A close look at how District 3 is continuing to evolve through consistant growth



Councilwoman Ramos, pictured with Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, South Chamber President Cindy Taylor and State Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon celebrate the ribbon cutting at the newly opened Frost Bank location at HEB's new McCreless Market development.

A true and long overdue revitalization in our community is currently taking place. Business growth, infrastructure needs met and an increase in the access to higher education are just three of the many facets the Southern Sector is now experiencing.

There is little secret to the successful growth District 3 has encountered over the last five years. Spurred by the development of the Toyota Auto Manufacturing Plant, the rapid growth of Brooks City Base and its tenants like DPT Laboratories, the Challenger Learning Center, Earth Tech and of course the realization of San Antonio's second major 4-year public University in Texas A&M San Antonio the future is very bright in our community.

Recently, a major announcement involving more growth excited many in the Southern Sector when it was well publicized that the Baptist Health

System was moving forward with the plans for a new state of the art medical campus at Brooks City Base. The plan calls for the development of 28 acres for a new hospital and medical offices.

The health system purchased land for the medical complex from the Brooks Development Authority which agreed to invest in major roadwork infrastructure to accommodate the new facility. The South New Braunfels extension, a \$47 million infrastructure improvement, was a major catalyst in providing the necessary access to the medical complex. The infrastructure project will extend S. New Braunfels deep into the City Base eventually reaching Loop 410 enhancing the campus for future development opportunities.

The central part of the district suffered a big loss in 2004 when McCreless Mall shut its doors. Fast forward four years and that community will be celebrating a rebirth of significant commercial growth with the recent opening of the McCreless Market.

So far 50 tenants including development anchors HEB Plus and both Marshalls and Bealls department stores along with Radio Shack, Shoe Carnival, Payless Shoes, Frost Bank, IBC Bank, UPS, Subway and Taco Cabana to name a few will all be taking space at what is being described by developers as an "open air market".

In addition, Cinemark Theaters will be opening a brand new first run 10 screen theater—the only one of its kind in District 3.

Another facet to the growth we are experiencing in District 3 is the amount of new banking facilities already built or are currently slated to open in our community. Frost, First National, Compass, Sterling, Broadway, Washington Mutual and IBC are just a few of the different financial institutions that have opened up or are planning to open new branches in our community.

New banks, new malls, a new public 4-year university and a state of the art new medical facility all confirm the steady economic growth and the stability currently experienced in District 3.

For more information on economic development in our community please call the District 3 office at (210) 207-7066.

Road and Drainage Construction Projects Continue in District 3

Rip Rap 69 and Goliad Road Projects Continue Progress

For years infrastructure problems infested the intersection of Goliad Rd. and SE Military Drive. Constant flooding, poor road conditions, dangerous and broken sidewalks were the norm at the busy intersection.

A two phase project (Goliad Road Construction Project) was initiated to help alleviate the problematic intersection and road. The project includes roadway improvements, sidewalks, curbs, driveway approaches and an underground storm system to relieve flooding issues in the area.

The initial phase includes improvements on Goliad Rd. from Military Dr. to near Lassus Road. Phase II of this project is set for a groundbreaking in early 2009 and will include improvements from Lassus Rd. to Pecan Valley.

On Thursday July 10, Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos proudly cut the ribbon that ceremoniously highlighted the completion of the initial stage of the project aimed at correcting all of the aforementioned problems.

"The completion of this phase of this very important project is the culmination of all of the hard work of my predecessors including Councilman (Roland) Gutierrez, Councilman (Ron) Segovia, Councilwoman (Toni) Moorhouse, Councilwoman (Debra) Guerrero, Councilwoman (Lynda) Billa-Burke and of course Councilwoman (Helen) Dutmer," said Councilwoman Ramos.

The completed phase of this project cost \$5.6 million dollars and utilized funds from the 1994 City of San Antonio Drainage Bond and both the 1985 and 2003 City of San Antonio Revenue bond.

From the Southeast quadrant of District 3 to the far west area of this large and diverse District, the Rip Rap 69 Phase II-D project recently got underway following a groundbreaking ceremony on August 5th.

Councilwoman Ramos, the City of San Antonio's Capital Improvements Management Services Department, and community members were on hand for the ceremony marking the start of construction for a \$13.4 million roadway and drainage-improvement project.

Rip Rap 69, funded by the 2007 General Obligation Drainage Improvement Bond and a 2005 Storm Water Revenue Bond, will provide

30-foot street sections and drainage improvements for Brunswick, Fitch and Canavan streets from Interstate 35 eastward to the drainage channel, and Bruhn, Bodie and Donegan streets from the drainage channel to Canavan.

In addition, the project includes curbs, driveway approaches and 4-foot sidewalks. Also included are channel improvements from I-35 eastward to the box culvert system at Marney Plaza.

"This project, much like the Goliad project will greatly improve the infrastructure needs of a community that has needed these improvements for over 30 years," said Councilwoman Ramos.

For more information on both of these projects, please visit www.JennRamos.com or call the District 3 Field Office at (210) 534-1300.



Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos talks to reporters in front of the intersection at Goliad Rd. and SE Military Dr. at the ribbon cutting ceremony that was held on July 10 marking the completion of the first phase of the Goliad Rd. Construction project.



Jennifer V. Ramos
City Councilwoman
District 3
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, Texas 78283-3966
www.sanantonio.gov/council/d3.asp
www.JennRamos.com

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Calendar of Events: August - November

- Aug. 18th** Los Vecinos de la Misiones Mtg., Mission Espada, at 6:30 p.m.
Aug. 19th District 3 Back in Class School Supply Drive. Presa Community Center, For more information call 534-1300
Aug. 19th Sunny Slope Neighborhood Association Mtg., Southside Lions Community Center at 7 p.m.
Aug. 20th Riverside South Neighborhood Association Mtg., Presa Community Center at 6 p.m.
Aug. 20th FY 2008 District 3 Community Budget Meeting, Holy Name Catholic School Community Center, at 7 p.m.
Aug. 21th Mission San Jose Neighborhood Association Mtg., San Jose Mini Center (Behind Mission San Jose) at 6:30 p.m.
Aug. 25th **First day of school**
(Behind Mission San Jose) at 6:30 p.m.
Aug. 28th Southeast Good Neighbor Crime Watch Mtg., Snoga's Cafeteria at 7 p.m.
Sept. 1st **Happy Labor Day ★★★ City Holiday ★★★**
Sept. 8th Highland Hills Neighborhood Association Mtg., Highland Hills Elementary at 7 p.m.
Sept. 11th Pecan Valley Neighborhood Association Mtg., Pecan Valley Elementary at 7 p.m.
Sept. 13th Highland Park Neighborhood Association Mtg., Bode Center at 10 a.m.
Sept. 15th Los Vecinos de la Misiones Mtg., Mission Espada, at 6:30 p.m. at 9:30 a.m.
Sept. 16th Sunny Slope Neighborhood Association Mtg., Southside Lions Community Center at 7 p.m.
Sept. 17th Riverside South Neighborhood Association Mtg., Presa Community Center at 6 p.m.
Sept. 18th Mission San Jose Neighborhood Association Mtg., San Jose Mini Center (Behind Mission San Jose) at 6:30 p.m.
Sept. 20th Highland Community Alliance Mtg., Highland Hills Apts. at 9:30 a.m.
Sept. 25th Southeast Good Neighbor Crime Watch Mtg., Snoga's Cafeteria at 7 p.m.
Oct. 6th Highland Hills Neighborhood Association Mtg., Highland Hills Elementary at 7 p.m.
Oct. 9th Pecan Valley Neighborhood Association Mtg., Pecan Valley Elementary at 7 p.m.
Oct. 11th Highland Park Neighborhood Association Mtg., Bode Center at 10 a.m.
Oct. 15th Riverside South Neighborhood Association Mtg., Presa Community Center at 6 p.m.
Oct. 16th Mission San Jose Neighborhood Association Mtg., San Jose Mini Center (Behind Mission San Jose) at 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 20th Los Vecinos de la Misiones Mtg., Mission Espada, at 6:30 p.m. at 9:30 a.m.
Oct. 21st Sunny Slope Neighborhood Association Mtg., Southside Lions Community Center at 7 p.m.
Oct. 30th Southeast Good Neighbor Crime Watch Mtg., Snoga's Cafeteria at 7 p.m.
Oct. 31st **Happy Halloween**
Nov. 3rd Highland Hills Neighborhood Association Mtg., Highland Hills Elementary at 7 p.m.
Nov. 4th **Election Day**
Nov. 8th Highland Park Neighborhood Association Mtg., Bode Center at 10 a.m.
Nov. 13th Pecan Valley Neighborhood Association Mtg., Pecan Valley Elementary at 7 p.m.
Nov. 15th Highland Community Alliance Mtg., Highland Hills Apts. at 9:30 a.m.
Nov. 17th Los Vecinos de la Misiones Mtg., Mission Espada, at 6:30 p.m. at 9:30 a.m.
Nov. 18th Sunny Slope Neighborhood Association Mtg., Southside Lions Community Center at 7 p.m.
Nov. 19th Riverside South Neighborhood Association Mtg., Presa Community Center at 6 p.m.
Nov. 20th Mission San Jose Neighborhood Association Mtg., San Jose Mini Center (Behind Mission San Jose) at 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 27th **Nov. 27th** **Happy Thanksgiving ★★★ City Holiday ★★★**
Nov. 28th **★★★ City Holiday ★★★**

District 3 City Council Newsletter

District 3 Staff/Office Information

Field Office

3319 Sidney Brook
Brooks City-Base,
Bldg. 510
San Antonio, Texas 78235
Office: 534-1300
Fax: 534-1931

Vanessa Chavez, Council Aide 207-7066

Email: vanessa.chavez@sanantonio.gov

Orlando Ramirez, Council Aide 534-1300

Email: orlando.ramirez@sanantonio.gov

Gabe Farias, Council Aide 534-1300

Email: gabe.farias@sanantonio.gov

Jennifer Porter, Council Aide 207-7066

Email: jennifer.porter@sanantonio.gov

Gloria De La Cruz, Council Aide 534-1300

Email: gloria.delacruz@sanantonio.gov

Pamela Boykin, Senior Executive Sec . . . 207-7064

Email: pamela.boykin@sanantonio.gov

City Hall Office

100 Military Plaza,
PO Box 839966
San Antonio Texas 78283
Office: 207-7064
Office: 207-7066
Fax: 207-7027

FIELD OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Walk-In appointments welcomed 9 AM - 3 PM

Upcoming District 3 Events

District 3 "Back in Class" School Supply Drive

Please join Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos and the District 3 staff as we help prepare neighborhood children in our community get "Back in Class". We will be providing basic school supplies for students attending District 3 area schools as well as other pre-class necessities such as haircuts.

A complimentary hot dog meal will be served while supplies last. For

more information please call (210) 207-7066.

What: District 3 "Back in Class" School Supply Give Away
Where: Presa Community Center (3127 S. Presa)
When: Tuesday, August 19, 2008
Time: 5pm - 8pm

District 3 Community Budget Meeting

Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos will be hosting a District 3 Community Budget Meeting to discuss different facets and to take suggestions on the upcoming City of San Antonio Fiscal Year 2009 Budget. City Manager Sheryl Scully along with members of the City's Budget Department will be on hand for the meeting.

For more information, please feel

free to contact the District 3 Field Office at (210) 534-1300.

What: District 3 Community Budget Meeting
Where: Holy Name Catholic Church Community Center (3814 Nash Blvd.)
When: Wednesday, August 20, 2008
Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm